

**Bluemont Civic Association**  
Executive Board Meeting  
August 11, 2009, 7:30 p.m.  
Home of Jim and Mary Thorne  
4511 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street

**Call to Order and Attendance**

President Judah dal Cais called the meeting to order at approximately 7:40 p.m. In attendance were Judah dal Cais, Judy Collins, Carl Drummond, Steve Cole, Sam Ferro, Bob Atkins, Mary Thorne, Jim Thorne, and Terry Serie.

**July 14, 2009, Minutes**

The Executive Board voted unanimously to approve the July 14 Executive Board meeting minutes with edits.

**September Newsletter**

Newsletter text is due to Suzanne Sundburg on August 24. Sam needs the copy by August 31. The following items will be included:

- 1) Info on candidates' night
- 2) Recap of June meeting including results of election
- 3) Results of survey
- 4) Recent developments at Union Jack's
- 5) Update on Peck/Staples-ask Wendy

October would be a good month for an article on swine flu.

**Fall Meeting Dates, Sites and Speakers**

Arlington Traditional School (ATS) will not be available on September 23 due to Back to School night. Judah will see if Lubber Run is available. Judah will try to get a representative from Code Enforcement to speak at the September meeting. The results of the neighborhood survey will also be presented at this meeting. The speaker at the October meeting will be a public health official or someone from the American Red Cross. Judah will ask ATS if BCA can meet there on October 13 and 28, November 10 and 18 (moved from November 25) and December 8 (combined Executive/General meetings). In addition, he will check on ATS's availability for January–June 2010 meetings.

**Wilson Boulevard Village Center Concept/NC Plan Update**

Shelly Mastran of Virginia Tech has a student who wants to do a one-credit independent study. The student is an Arlington County employee who is pursuing a master's degree. It is possible that this credit could be earned working with the Bluemont Village Center Working Group. The student is supposed to contact BCA regarding what would be possible given the one-credit limit. Matt Matauszek will be BCA's liaison from the county planning office. Steve Cole and Judah requested suggestions as to possible tasks for the student with the one-credit independent study.

### **Arlington Forest Club Cell Tower**

Steve Cole who lives next door to the Arlington Forest Club explained that T-Mobile had asked the club for permission to build a cell tower on the property. The goal of T-Mobile is to improve cell service in private homes as customers give up their landline accounts. If the club approves this proposal, T-mobile would remove 13 trees and erect a 100-foot tower. In exchange for the access to this site, T-mobile would pay the club \$180,000 per year for five years. The club membership will vote on this matter tomorrow. If it passes, then the neighboring civic associations (including BCA) will get involved.

### **Meditation Garden**

After further discussions, it seems there are neighbors who object to the meditation garden being relocated to Bon Air. No county funds can be used to install or maintain it. In related news, the board voted to send a letter commending Patrick Wegeng and his staff for going above and beyond the call of duty.

### **Union Jack's Pub and Rock Bottom Brewery Neighborhood Relations**

Union Jack's recently filed a site plan amendment to increase its outdoor seating capacity from 20 to 54 with some encroachment on public right of way. The adjacent civic associations (Buckingham and BCA) were not notified of this request. Residents of the townhouses across Glebe from the restaurant objected to the increase because of the loud customer noise from the existing capacity. There is a lot of noise associated with patrons on the outdoor patio, which sometime lasts until 1:00 or 2:00 am. Although there are occupancy limits for the outside seating areas of Rock Bottom and Union Jack's, these limits are not enforced. The amendment was withdrawn and a request to expand the seating to 54 — without use of the public right of way — through the administrative change process was approved.

Terry Serie has been working on this issue in response to a plea from his neighbors that include families with small children. He has discovered that there are extensive measures to limit restaurant noise after a certain hour in other sections of Arlington County such as Shirlington and Clarendon. Similar measures are not currently in the Union Jack's (or the adjacent Rock Bottom Brewery) permit. Terry has met with the owner of Union Jack's who would like to work with the neighborhood to find a solution to this issue. Terry will meet with Rock Bottom staff as well. The Union Jack's "live entertainment and dancing" permit will be reviewed by the County Board in September. The neighborhood is planning to work with the Union Jack's owner and the County on noise control measures, or "condition" to add to the permit.

A motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed as follows: The Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) designates Laurie Miller and Terry Serie as its representatives for the neighborhood issues created by facilities operating in the Ballston Mall area. This designation is for the period of August to December 31, 2009. BCA assigns Laurie and Terry with the tasks of:

1. Informing the three townhouse associations west of Union Jack's (114 residences) on N. Tazewell Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Street N., and N. Carlin Springs of site

plan amendments, administrative change requests, approvals and reviews, and other actions, to include live entertainment and dancing permits, and outdoor seating areas.

2. Organizing meetings with the County staff, the applicant, and other parties to identify current and potential neighborhood issues and solution options.
3. Facilitating neighborhood and BCA actions to mitigate current and potential negative impacts on the surrounding residential neighborhood in the area between N. Carlin Springs Rd. and Wilson Blvd.

### **Update from Officers & Representatives**

Treasurer Judy Collins reports that she has paid the following: annual dues to the Civic Federation, annual dues to the Ballston-Virginia Square Partnership and the annual fee for the post office box. Advertisements for the newsletter need to be finalized. Suzanne announced she would be sending out an e-update soon announcing the movie to be shown in the park and the Civic Federation's Candidates Night. Judah will be using the following e-mail address through the end of the year, [jdalcais@yahoo.com](mailto:jdalcais@yahoo.com). His Verizon account will not be active during that period. Judah was pre-authorized to contribute \$50 to the candidates' debate that is jointly sponsored by BCA and several other civic associations.

### **Adjournment**

Dal Cais adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:05 pm.